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to be despatched by the Department of State to Consul Atherton at Pernambuco, requesting that he secure and forward sufficient quantities of the medicine for experimental purposes. Early last month his report and the medicine reached the department. In his report he says:

"Dr. Bundeira declines making any charge for his information or for the medicines. I have to report that, in addition to the accompanying report of Dr. Bundeira, I know of a case where this medicine has apparently cured cancer of the breast. The woman is about her work every day, and appears to be cured. There is a scar left about the size of the end of a man's thumb, with a depth of about a quarter of an inch. The cure is painful, as the place has to be opened up more of the milk put in. They seem to think here that the plant is equally effective in its prepared form, but I think I had a cancer I should prefer to be treated where I could get the plant fresh."

Consul Atherton sends with his report letter addressed to himself from Dr. Bundeira, who is the surgeon in charge of the Pedro II. Hospital at Pernambuco. The Doctor says:

"The notice about Alveloz, published in the *Therapeutic Gazette*, is truthful, and we can say complete, as far as our perfect knowledge of the plant and its effects extends. I would not like to risk myself to explain its physiological and therapeutic action as an escharotic, but am able to assure you that it gives a permanent result in the treatment of ulcers of different kinds. A magistrate named Guennas was the first who made it known four years ago. He had a cancer of the face, and went to his home at Rio de Janeiro. He had been treated by several doctors who could not cure him. He was perfectly cured there by the use of the country, and wrote the paper, sending the plant and its juice, which were tried here, with success in several cases."

Last year the juice of Alveloz was used by the Hospital Pedro II. with such gratifying success that Dr. Vellozo published notice in the papers of Recife, advising the use of it. Many other successful applications of the medicine have been made in cases of epithelioma of the lips, nose, and eyelids. The application of Alveloz in ulcerated cancers (sarcoma or carcinoma) has not given the result that the doctors hoped."

The plant belongs to the family *Euphorbiaceae*. It grows spontaneously in the northern portions of Brazil, where it is known as *alvêloz*, *arveiroz*, or *aveloz*. The natives used to burn the wound with a piece of resin running from a piece of a broken piece of skin, after having washed it with the juice of the leaves of tobacco. We used generally the fresh juice of the plant, as it soon becomes coagulated and gives a bad odor. Our chemists, however, have succeeded in keeping it stable and unalterable by treating it with hydrochloric acid, which does not modify the action. The juice prepared in this way is given the same results, and it has been employed in many cases. I send a sample of the juice prepared in the way described, which I hope may give in the United States the same good results it has here."

Dr. de Santa Cruz (chemist), treating cancer by water and afterward by alcohol, obtained a resin (of which I send a sample) that seems to contain the principle of the plant. This resin has a powerful irritating action, and has been employed in the proportion of 1 or 2 grains with vaseline."

The proportion of this medicine, when it is used, was secured by Dr. Smith, Surgeon, the Health Officer of the District of Columbia, for the purpose of giving it to a patient, Capt. Dugal, who is about 65 years of age, who was suffering from a cancer of the nose of long standing. The effect was marvellous. The treatment began to heal from the first application, and in a very short time it was all appearances, cured. The Surgeon saw Capt. Dugal before the cure appears to be permanent. Dr. Townsend says he is now treating cancer of the face, and is apparently attaining the same good results. He institutes about expressing a positive opinion as yet regarding its virtues as a cure for cancer, but says that in these cases it seems to have accomplished all that any other remedial agent known to him has done."

The quantity received by the Department of State was small. The department has ordered another supply, and the Surgeon has also written to Consul Atherton requesting that a supply be sent to him at his expense.—*Sun*.

SEVENTY MILLION YEARS HENCE.—Prof. F. A. Proctor says the moon is the most interesting of all the heavenly bodies. It has been particularly serviceable in proving the force of the law of gravitation. It proves, too, what the world was like in remote ages of the past and what it will be in remote ages to come. It is the most significant service to man as a measurement of time. The most perceptible effect which the earth exerts on the moon's course is that of attraction, by which its route in space is continually deviated. From the moon's position and condition we may infer our condition of the course of its planetary life. It is very reason to suppose that our condition was at one time hers; that she possessed an atmosphere, water, and vegetation like life. That has now passed away. Her surface is a sterile, lifeless mass. The atmosphere has gone with her, and the seas are dried up. The same process is going on with our earth, and a similar result will eventually befall it. But by reason of the greater bulk of the planet, effects produced in ten thousand years in the moon will require

